"Express Mail" mailing label number __EL 669 271 004 US

Date of Deposit March 15, 2002

Our Case No.: 9683/10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Tatsuji Nagaoka et al.

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

PROGRAM PROVIDING SYSTEM For:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents A1-A7 listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed documents required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed.

Applicants note that Japanese patent publication A7 corresponds to United States patent A1. Inasmuch as document A1 is in English, the corresponding Japanese document A7 has not been translated.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be

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construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

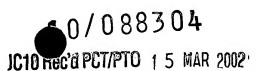
Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 48,059

Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. Box 10395 Chicago, IL 60610 (312) 321-4200



FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO.		CASE NO.
		To Be Assigned	9683/109
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR	FILING DATE		GROUP ART UNIT
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		Herewith	To Be Assigned
STATEMENT			
(use several sheets if necessary)	APPLICANT(S	NT(S): Tatsuji Nagaoka et al.	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PAT	ENT DOCUMENTS
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EXAMINER		DOCUMENT			CLASS/	FILING
INITIAL		NUMBER	DATE	NAME	SUBCLASS	DATE
	A1	5,901,366	05/04/1999	Nakano et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER		DOCUMENT			CLASS/	TRANSLATION	
INITIAL		NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	SUBCLASS	YES	NO
	A2	2000-78280	03/14/2000	Japan		Χ	
	A3	2000-175117	06/23/2000	Japan		Х	-
	A4	2000-69381	03/03/2000	Japan		Х	
	A5	2000-183836	06/30/2000	Japan		Χ	
	A6	9-37180	02/07/1997	Japan		Х	
	A7	8-307942	11/22/1996	Japan			Х

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.